

Rep. Peter Welch on Thursday continued his push to end taxpayer subsidies to the ethanol industry. Welch supported and the House passed an amendment to ensure the ethanol industry does not receive an additional subsidy from taxpayers.

The amendment – offered by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) to the Agriculture Appropriations Act (H.R. 2112) – would ban taxpayer money to subsidize the purchase of specialized blender bumps and storage facilities for the ethanol industry. The amendment passed by a vote of 283-128.

"This vote is a clear signal to the ethanol industry. At a time when Americans are demanding Washington get its fiscal house in order, it is simply unjustifiable to ask taxpayers to support a mature and profitable industry. Not only is the ethanol industry soaking up scarce taxpayer dollars, its product is driving up the cost of feed for struggling dairy farmers and damaging small engines used in boats, lawnmowers and motorcycles. Today's vote is a step in the right direction."

The ethanol industry currently benefits from an unrivaled trifecta of taxpayer support, including a \$.045 per gallon tax credit, a protective import tariff of \$0.54 per gallon, and a renewable energy fuel mandate, which requires the blending of ethanol and other biodiesel in U.S. transportation fuel.

Welch is a co-sponsor of the Repeal Ethanol Subsidies Today Act (H.R. 1188), which would terminate the subsidies. He has also written to House Speaker John Boehner urging him to allow a floor vote on repealing the subsidies.

Welch spoke on the House floor Thursday in support of the amendment. To see video of his remarks, [CLICK HERE](#).